CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to model information quality and maturity, comprising:

associating quality metrics, levels of maturity, quality capabilities with one another; and

providing an information quality map, wherein the map represents the quality metrics, the levels of maturity, and the quality capabilities integrated and linked with one another on the map.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising representing the map as a geometric shape.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein in representing, the geometric shape is a three-dimensional object, wherein each quality metric is assigned to a particular connecting line and forms a single unique line of the three-dimensional object, each capability is assigned to a single unique surface area that is formed on the three-dimensional object by a unique set of three connecting lines, and each level is assigned to one of the three connecting lines.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the method as a remote electronic service.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising, presenting the map on a display, wherein an interface is used to traverse the map.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein presenting further includes:

permitting the map to be dynamically traversed from links associated with the map and activated via the interface; and

updating different electronic views for the map on the display after

activation of one of the links.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein in associating, the quality metrics include at least one of functionality, integrity, sufficiency, availability, usability, contextual, complexity, responsiveness, adaptability, robustness, affordability, and accessibility defined values, and wherein the capabilities include values for at least one of power, meaningfulness, productivity, utilization, scalability, resiliency, serviceability, and value added, and wherein the levels of maturity include values for at least one of breakthrough, leading edge, advanced, intermediate, and foundation.

8. A method to model information quality and maturity, comprising:

using a service for accessing an interactive information modeling tool;

providing information quality metric values to the information modeling tool based on metric variables defined in the information modeling tool; and

receiving a visual map from the service depicting an information quality current state for an information repository based on the values.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising, accessing the information modeling tool for selecting an information quality desired state for the information repository.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising, receiving an updated visual map from the service depicting the current state, one or more intermediate states, and the desired state, wherein the one or more intermediate states define steps that are needed to move an information quality of the information repository from the current state to the desired state.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein using further includes accessing the service remotely via an external network.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein using further includes accessing the service locally via an internal network.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein providing further includes, generating, by the information modeling tool, three information quality level values and an information quality capability value for each set of three provided information quality metric values.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein receiving further includes depicting, by the service, the visual map with discernable and interactive links for each set of three metric values, wherein each set of three metric values are associated with discernable and interactive links for levels associated with information quality maturity, and capabilities associated with the information quality, and wherein sets of the three metric variables, the corresponding levels and the corresponding capabilities are integrated with one another on the visual map.

15. An information modeling system, comprising:

an information modeling tool; and

an interface for interacting with the information modeling tool;

wherein the information modeling tool models information quality for an information repository, and wherein the interface is used for providing information quality metric values for a current state of the information repository, the information modeling tool uses the information quality metric values to produce a map representing the current state.

16. The information modeling system of claim 15 wherein the interface is also used for selecting an information quality desired state for the information repository, and wherein the information modeling tool updates

the map for representing the current and desired states simultaneously on the map.

17. The information modeling system of claim 16 wherein the information modeling tool updates the map to simultaneously represent the current state, one or more intermediate information quality states necessary to reach the desired state, and the desired state.

18. The information modeling system of claim 15 wherein the interface is used to interact with the information modeling tool via a remote service.

19. The information modeling system of claim 15 wherein the information modeling tool also provides, via interactions from the interface, discernable paths within the map from moving from the current state to an information quality desired state.

20. The information modeling system of claim 19 wherein the paths are determined by the tool based on selections made from weighted alternative paths that are available within the map from the current state in the direction of the desired state.

21. An information modeling data structure residing on a computer-accessible medium for modeling information quality, the data structure comprising:

quality metric variables;

quality level values; and

quality capability values;

wherein sets of three metric values that are assigned to three of the metric variables are uniquely associated and linked with a unique one of the quality capability values and three of the quality level values.

22. The information modeling data structure of claim 21 further comprising, the sets of three quality metric values are assigned to the quality metric variables based on a current state of an information repository.

23. The information modeling data structure of claim 22, wherein the sets of three quality metric values determine the three quality level values and a unique quality capability value.

24. The information modeling data structure 23, wherein the data structure is used to visually depict on a display a current state, needed intermediate states, and a desired state for information quality of an information repository.

25. The information modeling data structure of claim 21, wherein the data structure is visually depicted as a three dimensional interactive map for current, projected, and desired states of information quality associated with an information repository.

26. The information modeling data structure of claim 21 further comprising, links that are accessible and activated via an interface for viewing the data structure, and wherein each links depicts an association between the variables.

27. The information modeling data structure of claim 21 wherein one or two metric values for a given set of three metric variables are null values.